

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description portion of the specification and certain of the claims have been amended. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 16 are independent. The objections and rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended as required by the examiner. Claim 7 has been amended for improved readability. The written description has been amended to overcome the objection to the disclosure. Specification page 6/8 now reads in pertinent part that "[f]or example, according to one embodiment of the present invention, the information carrier includes a sequence of magnetizable individual elements." Support for the amendment is found in original claim 5, which recited that "the information carrier (2) comprises a magnetic tape or a sequence of magnetizable individual elements." The functioning of the "sequence of magnetizable individual elements" embodiment is as described for the magnetic tape embodiment (see specification page 6/8, lines 15-24).

Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Ikeda and Dimyan

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1205300 of Ikeda et al. (hereinafter "Ikeda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,176,404 to Dimyan et al. ("Dimyan").

The rejection of claims 1-17 under § 103(a) based on Ikeda and Dimyan is respectfully traversed. For at least the following reasons, the combined disclosures of Ikeda and Dimyan would not have rendered obvious Applicants' claimed invention.

First, the combined disclosures of Ikeda and Dimyan do not teach all of Applicants' claimed features. Ikeda discloses a rotational phase difference detecting system for detecting a rotational phase difference between a plurality of cylinders for (horizontal) registering in offset printing presses (column 3, paragraph [0017]). For this reason *color marks* are applied on the cylinders involved in the printing process. The color marks can be detected by *color mark sensors*. By the comparison of the different revolutions of these different cylinders per time unit, a phase difference between these cylinders can be calculated by a calculating section (column 5, paragraph [0026]).

Applicants' claimed invention, however, is a multi-color printing machine with a register device (6, 7, 8) having sensors (3) that determine the position of the printing plate carrier (1) in the printing machine. For this purpose the cylinders involved

in the printing process include information carriers (2) (here, in one embodiment, a "sequence of magnetizable individual elements") that can be read out by a sensor (3). The corresponding cylinder topological (horizontal and vertical) position can be calculated (and corrected, if required) by a control device.

Ikeda's rotational phase difference detecting system is only able to detect and correct the *phase difference* between the cylinders. Applicants' claimed device is able to detect and correct the *topological position* (horizontal and vertical) of the cylinders. To obtain this topological information about the cylinders a special information carrier - in one embodiment of the present invention, the claimed "sequence of magnetizable individual elements" - is utilized. Ikeda fails to teach each feature of Applicants' claimed machine for the topological registering process.

The disclosure of Dimyan does not rectify the above-described deficiencies of Ikeda. Dimyan is directed to a data storage tape with a magnetic bubble domain memory structure (column 3, lines 42). However, there is simply no teaching in either of the references that would have led one to select the references and combine them in a way that would produce the embodiment of the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1. In fact, the asserted combination of references is illogical because it results in a technically incompatible combination. Combining the teachings of Ikeda and Dimyan would not lead to Applicants' claimed invention

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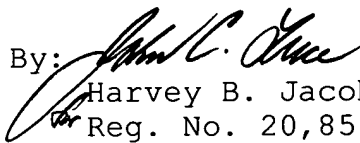
because the color-mark-sensor of Ikeda is not capable of the readout of the topological information of Dimyan's storage tape.

Accordingly, the combined disclosures of Ikeda and Dimyan would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1. Claims 2-5 and 9-15 are allowable because they depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and for the subject matter recited therein. Independent claims 6 and 16, and their associated dependent claims, are similarly allowable.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By:  Reg. No. 34,378
Harvey B. Jacobson, Jr.
Reg. No. 20,851

400 Seventh Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-6666
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